

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of invoice presentation and invoice payment for use
2 in a network accessible to a biller having a biller accounts receivable system and a
3 biller bank, and accessible to a payer having a payer accounts payable system and a
4 payer bank, the method comprising:
5 establishing a database accessible over the network;
6 exporting an invoice from the biller accounts receivable system to the
7 database;
8 presenting the invoice to the payer when the payer accesses the
9 database to view the invoice;
10 importing the invoice to the payer accounts payable system from the
11 database;
12 paying the invoice by recording a payment from the payer representing
13 an amount of money, the payment being recorded in the database;
14 importing the payment to the payer accounts payable system from the
15 database; and
16 importing the payment to the biller accounts receivable system from
17 the database.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 transmitting the payment from the database to the biller bank.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 transferring the amount of money to the biller bank from the payer
3 bank.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein establishing the database
2 further comprises:
3 establishing the database such that the database is accessible over the
4 Internet.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the database is accessible over
2 the network through a web executable interface.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the web executable interface
2 operates in a virtual machine and wherein the payer starts the virtual machine and
3 interacts with the database from within the virtual machine.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein presenting the invoice to the
2 payer further comprises:
3 starting the virtual machine at the payer; and
4 presenting the invoice to the payer with the virtual machine.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein paying the invoice further
2 comprises:
3 paying the invoice as directed by the payer from within the virtual
4 machine.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein importing the invoice to the
2 payer accounts payable system further comprises:
3 downloading the invoice from the database as directed by the payer
4 from within the virtual machine; and
5 importing the downloaded invoice.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein importing the payment to the
2 payer accounts payable system further comprises:
3 downloading the payment from the database as directed by the payer
4 from within the virtual machine; and
5 importing the downloaded payment.

1 11. The method of claim 6 wherein the web executable interface
2 operates in a virtual machine and wherein the biller starts the virtual machine and
3 interacts with the database from within the virtual machine.

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1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the biller views the recorded
2 payment from within the virtual machine.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein importing the payment to the
2 biller accounts receivable system further comprises:
3 downloading the payment from the database as directed by the biller
4 from within the virtual machine; and
5 importing the downloaded payment.

1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein exporting the invoice from
2 the biller accounts receivable system further comprises:
3 uploading the invoice as directed by the biller; and
4 entering the uploaded invoice into the database.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the invoice has at least one
2 associated attachment, and wherein the method further comprises:
3 uploading the at least one attachment as directed by the biller; and
4 entering the uploaded at least one attachment into the database.

1 16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 notifying the payer when the invoice is exported from the biller
3 accounts receivable system to the database.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein notifying further comprises:
2 sending an email to the payer to notify the payer when the invoice is
3 exported from the biller accounts receivable system to the database.

1 18. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 notifying the biller when the payment is recorded.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein notifying further comprises:
2 sending an email to the biller to notify the biller when the payment is
3 recorded.

1 20. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 approving the invoice prior to paying the invoice.

1 21. The method of claim 1 wherein after the payment is recorded,
2 the method further comprises:
3 applying the payment to the invoice.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein applying the payment further
2 comprises:
3 applying the payment to the invoice in accordance with predefined
4 payment rules setup by the biller.

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